



Boat-billed Heron

G. Homel



Black-headed Trogon

R. Toft



Agami Heron

G. Homel

## Cuero y Salado Manatee and Wildlife Refuge

\$70 per person including lunch

Named for the Cuero and Salado Rivers which meet the ocean here, this coastal wildlife refuge contains just over 35,000 acres of tropical wet and mangrove forests with an extensive network of estuaries and natural canals to explore. A visit to Cuero y Salado is a must for birders and a wonderful experience for all those interested in Honduras' diverse wildlife and ecology. The bird list for the refuge notes over 350 species while howler and white-faced monkeys, sloths, caimans, crocodiles, iguanas and turtles are all common sights as well. Perhaps the refuge's most famous inhabitant is the elusive and endangered West Indian Manatee, with a population of more than 50 being reported.

A short drive from The Lodge will take us north towards the coast to the village of La Union. From here we travel in a small motorized train along an historic narrow-gauge railway that leads through pastures and coconut plantations to the refuge headquarters located near the mouth of the Salado River. Guests tour the bird and wildlife-rich estuaries of the refuge in a small, motorized skiff or, if they prefer, a hand-paddled canoe.

Along the railway and within the refuge itself are seen the Laughing Falcon, Bat Falcon, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Black-collared Hawk, Gray-necked Wood Rail, Sungrebe, Agami Heron, Black-headed Trogon, Mangrove Cuckoo, Northern Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Mangrove (Yellow) Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Mangrove Vireo and Yucatan Vireo. Jabiru Storks are often seen here from the train during the winter months. Also at this time, we have the opportunity to visit an impressive Boat-billed Heron rookery, consisting of nearly two hundred individuals. Five Kingfisher species occur here including; the Belted, Ringed, Green, Amazon and the dazzling, diminutive Pigmy Kingfisher.

Guests usually leave early in the morning, returning to The Lodge for lunch.